

X. OGC, AUTHORITY AND FLRA INITIATIVES - PART G OF THE SURVEY

The FLRA has implemented a number of initiatives to improve the quality of its service. Questions addressing Office of the General Counsel, Authority and FLRA initiatives were presented to assess perceptions of respondents. These questions represent skip patterns; only those respondents who participated in or who were aware of the program were asked to respond to these questions.

A. Office of the General Counsel Initiatives

1. Policies, Guidances, and Manuals. For the past four years the General Counsel published policies, guidances and the Representation Case Handling Manual and Hearing Officer's Guide. For those respondents who indicated knowledge of these publications, questions were asked about their quality and helpfulness. These findings overall are very encouraging. See Table 50.

Of 585 respondents, 70% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidance, and manuals are clearly written," 18% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12% disagreed. Of 282 agency respondents, 80% agreed with the statement; of 253 union respondents, 58% agreed with the statement, of 14 individual respondents, 50% agreed with the statement. Of 584 respondents, 68% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals provided a thorough discussion of the legal issues," 19% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12% disagreed. Of 282 agency respondents, 81% agreed, of 251 union respondents, 53% agreed, and of 15 individual respondents, 53% agreed. Of 574 respondents, 64% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals encouraged alternative approaches for dispute resolution," 23% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 13% disagreed. Of 276 agency respondents, 74% agreed, of 249 union respondents, 50% agreed, and of 14 individual respondents, 72% agreed.

Of 451 respondents, 21% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals resulted in my filing fewer unfair labor practice charges," 39% neither agreed nor disagreed; and 40% disagreed. Of 176 agency respondents, 11% agreed, of 251 union respondents, 27% agreed, and of 15 individual respondents, 20% agreed.



TABLE 50 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL INITIATIVES

	Number of Respondents	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree		
G1a.1 The policies, guidance, and manuals: are clearly written.						
All Respondents	585	70%	18%	12%		
Role Represented before FLRA						
Agency	282	80%	14%	6%		
Union	253	58%	23%	19%		
Individual	14	50%	21%	29%		
FLRA	24	75%	8%	17%		
Other	5	80%	20%	0%		
G1a.2 The policies, guidances, and	l manuals: provid	e a thorough discus	ssion of the legal	issues.		
All Respondents	584	68%	19%	12%		
Role Represented before FLRA						
Agency	282	81%	14%	5%		
Union	251	53%	28%	19%		
Individual	15	53%	7%	40%		
FLRA	24	88%	4%	8%		
Other	5	80%	20%	0%		
G1a.3 The policies, guidances, and	d manuals: encour	age alternative app	proaches for disp	oute resolution.		
All Respondents	574	64%	23%	13%		
Role Represented before FLRA						
Agency	276	74%	20%	6%		
Union	249	50%	27%	23%		
Individual	14	72%	21%	7%		
FLRA	23	83%	9%	8%		
Other	5	100%	0%	0%		



TABLE 50 Continued OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL INITIATIVES

	Number of Respondents	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree				
G1a.4 The policies, guidance, and manuals: result in my filing fewer unfair labor practice charges.								
All Respondents	451	21%	39%	40%				
Role Represented before FLRA								
Agency	176	11%	59%	30%				
Union	251	27%	25%	48%				
Individual	15	20%	27%	53%				
FLRA	1	100%	0%	0%				
Other	3	34%	33%	33%				
G1a.5 The policies, guidance, and	l manuals: result i	n my filing more unfa	air labor practice cha	arges.				
All Respondents	437	14%	48%	38%				
Role Represented before FLRA								
Agency	173	5%	60%	35%				
Union	242	20%	41%	39%				
Individual	14	36%	28%	36%				
FLRA	5	0%	0%	100%				
Other	2	0%	50%	50%				
G1b.1 The policies, guidance, and a	manuals help me: o	carry out my respons	ibilities.					
All Respondents	586	74%	14%	12%				
Role Represented before FLRA								
Agency	28	82%	12%	6%				
Union	253	64%	17%	19%				
Individual	15	40%	33%	27%				
FLRA	22	91%	0%	9%				
Other	5	100%	0%	0%				



TABLE 50 Continued OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL INITIATIVES

	Number of Respondents	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree			
G1b.2. The policies, guidances, and manuals help me: understand the Authority's case law.							
All Respondents	590	74%	15%	11%			
Role Represented before FLRA							
Agency	284	83%	11%	6%			
Union	256	65%	19%	16%			
Individual	15	53%	20%	27%			
FLRA	23	78%	13%	9%			
Other	5	80%	20%	0%			
G1b.3 The policies, guidances, and	d manuals help me	e: apply the Author	ity's case law.				
All Respondents	585	74%	15%	11%			
Role Represented before FLRA							
Agency	282	86%	9%	5%			
Union	254	64%	19%	17%			
Individual	14	43%	28%	29%			
FLRA	23	83%	9%	8%			
Other	5	80%	20%	0%			
G1b.4 The policies, guidances, ar	nd manuals help m	ne: in my daily labo	r-management re	elationships.			
All Respondents	553	65%	19%	16%			
Role Represented before FLRA							
Agency	276	77%	17%	6%			
Union	249	53%	21%	26%			
Individual	14	36%	28%	36%			
FLRA	5	80%	0%	20%			
Other	3	67%	33%	0%			



TABLE 50 Continued OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL INITIATIVES

	Number of Respondents	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	
G1b.5 The policies, guidances, and manuals help me: understand how cases are processed in a Regional Office.					
All Respondents	567	57%	26%	17%	
Role Represented before FLRA					
Agency	278	68%	23%	9%	
Union	252	44%	30%	26%	
Individual	13	46%	39%	15%	
FLRA	13	69%	16%	15%	
Other	4	100%	0%	0%	
G1c The policies, guidances, an	nd manuals do not	help me at all.			
All Respondents	537	12%	16%	72%	
Role Represented before FLRA					
Agency	255	6%	13%	81%	
Union	239	17%	20%	63%	
Individual	14	29%	28%	43%	
FLRA	19	5%	5%	90%	
Other	4	0%	25%	75%	

Of 451 respondents, 14% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals resulted in my filing more unfair labor practice charges," 48% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 38% disagreed. Of 173 agency respondents, 5% agreed, of 242 union respondents, 20% agreed, and of 14 individual respondents, 36% agreed. On a very positive note, of 586 respondents, 74% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals helped me carry out my responsibilities," 14% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12% disagreed.

Of 590 respondents, 74% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals helped me understand the Authority's case law," 15% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 11% disagreed. Of 284 agency respondents, 83% agreed, of 256 union respondents, 65% agreed, and of 15 individual respondents, 53% agreed. Likewise, of 585 respondents, 74% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals helped me apply the Authority's case law," 15% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 11% disagreed. Of 282 agency respondents, 86% agreed, of 254 union respondents, 64% agreed, and of 14 individual respondents, 43% agreed.

Of 553 respondents, 65% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals



helped me in my daily labor-management relationships," 19% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 16% disagreed. Of 276 agency respondents, 77% agreed, of 249 union respondents, 53% agreed, and of 14 individual respondents, 36% agreed. Of 567 respondents, 57% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals helped me understand how cases are processed in a Regional Office," 26% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 17% disagreed. Of 278 agency respondents, 68% agreed; of 252 respondents, 44% agreed, and of 13 individual respondents, 46% agreed. This large difference between agency and union respondents might be an area that focus group could explore with unions on how to better present materials in policies, guidances, and manuals to assist union respondents.

On a favorable note, of 537 respondents, only 12% agreed with the statement, "the policies, guidances, and manuals did not help me at all, 16% neither agreed nor disagreed, and a majority (71%) disagreed. Of 255 agency respondents, only 6% agreed, of 239 union respondents, 17% agreed, and of 14 individual respondents, 29% agreed.

2. General Counsel Town Meetings. The General Counsel conducted town meetings during 1996/1997. The purpose of the meetings was to exchange ideas and to obtain feedback on issues of concern to labor and management. 18% of respondents (259 of 1,674 respondents) indicated they attended town meetings conducted by the General Counsel in 1996/1997. The responses to the town meetings were positive and supportive. (There were too few individual respondents to arrive at any conclusion about their views. However, they were positive.) See Table 51.

Of 259 respondents, 73% agreed with the statement, "as a result of attending a town meeting I am better informed about what the Authority and the Office of the General Counsel do and how they do it," 15% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12% disagreed. Of 132 agency respondents, 79% agreed, and, of 112 union respondents, 64% agreed. Of 259 respondents, 73% agreed with the statement, "as a result of attending town meetings I receive useful information about Authority decisions, and Office of the General Counsel guidances and policies," 14% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 13% disagreed. Of 133 agency respondents, 84% agreed, and, of 112 union participants, 60% agreed.

Of 255 respondents, 82% agreed with the statement, "as the result of town meetings I have the opportunity for face-to-face contact with Office of the General Counsel staff," 10% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 8% disagreed. Of 131 agency respondents, 87% agreed, and, of 110 union respondents, 74% agreed. Of 259 respondents, 71% agreed with the statement, "as the result of town meetings I have the opportunity to interact with other labor and management representatives in my community," 19% neither agreed nor disagreed, 10% disagreed.



TABLE 51 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TOWN MEETINGS

	Number of Respondents	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	
G2b.1 As a result of attending a Office of the General Co			about what the A	Authority and the	
All Respondents 259 73% 15% 12%					
Role Represented before FLRA					
Agency	132	79%	11%	10%	
Union	112	64%	20%	16%	
Individual	2	100%	0%	0%	
Other	2	50%	50%	0%	
G2b.2 As a result of attending to Office of the General Cour			tion about Autho	ority decisions, and	
All Respondents	259	73%	14%	13%	
Role Represented before FLRA					
Agency	133	84%	9%	7%	
Union	112	60%	20%	20%	
Individual	2	50%	0%	50%	
Other	2	50%	50%	0%	
G2b.3a As the result of town med General Counsel staff.	etings I have the o	pportunity: for fac	e-to-face contact	with Office of the	
All Respondents	255	82%	10%	8%	
Role Represented before FLRA					
Agency	131	87%	8%	5%	
Union	110	74%	14%	12%	
Individual	2	100%	0%	0%	
Other	2	50%	0%	50%	



TABLE 51 Continued OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TOWN MEETINGS

	Number of	Agree/	Neither Agree	Disagree/
	Respondents	Strongly Agree	nor Disagree	Strongly Disagree
G2b.3b As the result of town m management represents	-		eract with other la	abor and
All Respondents	259	71%	19%	10%
Role Represented before FLRA				
Agency	131	73%	20%	7%
Union	111	67%	19%	14%
Individual	2	50%	0%	50%
FLRA	9	89%	11%	0%
Other	2	100%	0%	0%
G2b.3c As the result of town m and the General Couns	_		oress my concerns	about the Authority
All Respondents	251	62%	25%	13%
Role Represented before FLRA				
Agency	128	62%	28%	10%
Union	110	59%	22%	19%
Individual	2	50%	50%	0%
FLRA	5	80%	20%	0%
Other	2	100%	0%	0%

Finally, of importance, of 251 respondents, 62% agreed with the statement, "as the result of town meetings I have the opportunity to express my concerns about the Authority and the General Counsel's operations and decisions," 25% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 13% disagreed. There were essentially little differences between agency and union respondents.

Comments. G2. Did you attend a town meeting conducted by the General Counsel in 1996 and/or 1997? (These are examples only. They do not represent a systematic representation of the comments. See Appendix B for the complete set of comments.) (1) Unaware of town meetings, are they published/advertised? (2) Good job, well done. (3) Typical legal mumbo/jumbo that is politically motivated. (4) Guidance document next best thing to sliced bread! (5) Great job of educating both management and union. Keep the guidance coming. Your efforts have decreased the costs of processing ULP disputes. (6) Management would not allow labor to attend. (7) The meeting I attend seemed to be an FLRA bashing rather than an information sharing. (8) Why should the GC be doing this? The GC is a regulatory and



enforcement agency. (9) These are wonderful meetings for sharing information. The GC should be commended for his initiatives. (10) Not informed of any town meetings.

B. Authority Initiatives

The Authority is exploring ways to increase understanding of the Federal sector labor-management program. Respondents were asked how useful conferences, symposiums, and training programs, informal meetings, focus groups, oral arguments in cases, and giving interested parties not directly involved an opportunity to comment on pending issues in the case, would be to address this need. All respondents were asked to answer these questions. There was agreement that the programs will be very useful. Following is a break-out of these program initiatives. See Table 52.

88% (1,320 respondents) agreed that informal meetings to discuss procedures and policies" would be somewhat or very useful. Of 1,236 respondents, 66% agreed that focus groups would be very or somewhat useful.

1,186 respondents (65%) agreed that oral arguments in cases would be very or somewhat useful. Of 508 agency respondents, 52% thought they would be useful; of 503 union respondents, 78% thought they would be useful; and of 91 individual respondents, 76% thought they would be useful.

Of 1,209 respondents, 58% agreed that giving interested parties who are not directly involved in a particular case an opportunity to comment on pending issues in the case would be very or somewhat useful. Of 524 agency respondents, 49% thought they would be useful; of 509 union respondents, 64% thought they would be useful; and, of 88 individual respondents, 76% thought they would be useful.

Comments. G3. The Authority is exploring ways to increase understanding of the Federal Sector labor-management program and obtain views on labor-management issues. Other, please specify: (These are examples only. They do not represent a systematic representation of the comments. See Appendix B for the complete set of comments.) (1) Depends on issue and its impact on LMR community. (2) Let us into the NLRB. (3) Publish a newsletter for managers/union. (4) Render timely decisions - if you are wrong, someone will

TABLE 52 AUTHORITY INITIATIVES

		Number of Respondents	Very/ Somewhat Useful	Of Little/No Use
G3.1	The Authority is exploring w management program and of Conferences, symposiums an	vays to increase understar btain views on labor-man	nding of the Federal sec	tor labor-
All Re	spondents	1,327	92%	8%
Role F	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	y	535	93%	7%
Union		556	92%	8%
Individ	dual	97	89%	11%
FLRA		23	91%	9%
Other		47	87%	13%
G3.2	The Authority is exploring wa program and obtain views on meetings to discuss procedure	labor-management issues		
All Re	spondents	1,320	88%	12%
Role F	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	y	576	87%	13%
Union		552	90%	10%
Individ	lual	94	88%	12%
FLRA		19	86%	14%
Other		47	83%	17%
G3.3	The Authority is exploring we management program and of following: Focus groups.	•	_	
All Re	spondents	1,236	66%	34%
Role F	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	y	535	60%	40%
Union		521	73%	27%
Individ	lual	91	67%	33%
FLRA		21	67%	33%
Other		43	61%	39%

22%

24%

34%



Union

FLRA

Other

TABLE 52 Continued AUTHORITY INITIATIVES

Number of

Verv/

78%

76%

66%

	Respondents	Somewhat Useful	Of Little/No Use
· ·	ring ways to increase understar and obtain views on labor-man es.	0	
All Respondents	1,186	65%	35%
Role Represented before FLRA			
Agency	508	52%	48%

Individual 91 76% 24%

FLRA 19 32% 68%

Other 42 67% 33%

G3.5 The Authority is exploring ways to increase understanding of the Federal sector labormanagement program and obtain views on labor-management issues. How useful is the following:

503

comment on pending issues in the case. 1,209 58% 42% **All Respondents** Role Represented before FLRA Agency 524 49% 51% Union 509 64% 36% Individual 88 69% 31%

21

44

Giving interested parties who are not directly involved in a particular case an opportunity to

appeal. Nothing happens if you sit on cases! (5) Town meetings are helpful. (6) Set up an information center. (7) No money to travel. (8) Videos on specific issues–20/30 minutes. (9) Published sanitized cases for review.

2. FLRA Web Site Initiative. The FLRA has set up a web site. 29% (485) of respondents have used the web site. For those respondents who used the web site, almost all would find it useful to have available FLRA forms (90%), full text of all FLRA decisions (96%) and search capability for FLRA decisions (99%). Interactive training materials online would be useful to 85% of respondents. 89% of respondents would like to have e-mail addresses of FLRA personnel to communicate about case related matters or to obtain assistance. Least useful but still very significant, 66% would find useful the ability to have electronic town meetings. These are excellent findings. The web site has been designed to be user friendly and has been well received by users. Following is a more detailed break-out of responses to the questions.

TABLE 53



FLRA INITIATIVES

		Number of	Hack-1	Not Hasful
~=		Respondents	<u>Useful</u>	Not Useful
G5a	We are considering adding ne you: FLRA forms?	w features to our Web site.	How useful would	the following be to
All Re	spondents	411	90%	10%
Progra	am			
Unfair	Labor Practice Charges	260	90%	10%
Repres	sentation Petitions	81	91%	9%
Negot	iability Appeals	54	89%	11%
Excep	tions to Arbitration Awards	76	88%	12%
Role I	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	у	200	86%	14%
Union		160	95%	5%
Individ	dual	21	95%	5%
FLRA		21	81%	19%
Other		8	75%	25%
G5b	We are considering adding new Full text of all FLRA decisions?		How useful would t	he following be to you
All Re	spondents	408	96%	4%
Progra	am			
Unfair	Labor Practice Charges	257	96%	4%
Repres	sentation Petitions	79	98%	2%
Negot	iability Appeals	52	100%	0%
Excep	tions to Arbitration Awards	73	100%	0%
Role I	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	у	200	96%	4%
Union		158	98%	2%
Individ	dual	21	91%	9%
FLRA		20	90%	10%
Other		8	100%	0%

TABLE 53 Continued



FLRA INITIATIVES

		Number of Respondents	<u>Useful</u>	Not Useful
G5c	We are considering adding nev you: Search capability for FLF	v features to our Web site		
All R	espondents	414	99%	1%
Progr	ram			
Unfai	r Labor Practice Charges	260	99%	1%
Repre	sentation Petitions	81	99%	1%
Nego	tiability Appeals	54	100%	0%
Excep	otions to Arbitration Awards	77	100%	0%
Role	Represented before FLRA			
Agend	cy	202	99%	1%
Unior	1	161	99%	1%
Indivi	dual	21	95%	5%
FLRA	L	20	95%	5%
Other		9	100%	0%
G5d	We are considering adding new Interactive training materials?	features to our Web site.	How useful would t	he following be to you:
All R	espondents	399	85%	15%
Progr	ram			
Unfai	r Labor Practice Charges	253	89%	11%
Repre	sentation Petitions	80	88%	12%
Nego	tiability Appeals	52	81%	19%
Excep	otions to Arbitration Awards	71	83%	17%
Role	Represented before FLRA			
Agend	су	197	88%	12%
Unior	1	153	82%	18%
Indivi	dual	21	91%	9%
FLRA	L	19	74%	26%
Other		8	88%	12%



TABLE 53 Continued FLRA INITIATIVES

		FLKA INITIATIVES	<u> </u>	
		Number of Respondents	<u>Useful</u>	Not Useful
G5e	We are considering adding new you: E-mail addresses to commassistance?			O
All Re	espondents	408	89%	11%
Progr	am			
Unfair	Labor Practice Charges	258	90%	10%
Repre	sentation Petitions	80	91%	9%
Negot	iability Appeals	54	87%	13%
Excep	tions to Arbitration Awards	75	88%	12%
Role l	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	ру	200	90%	10%
Union		158	89%	11%
Indivi	dual	21	91%	9%
FLRA		19	68%	32%
Other		9	100%	0%
G5f	We are considering adding new Establish electronic town meeting		How useful would th	ne following be to you:
All Re	espondents	398	64%	36%
Progr	am			
Unfair	Labor Practice Charges	252	69%	31%
Repre	sentation Petitions	77	62%	38%
Negot	iability Appeals	53	60%	40%
Excep	tions to Arbitration Awards	74	62%	38%
Role l	Represented before FLRA			
Agenc	cy	197	64%	36%
Union	ı	152	68%	32%
Indivi	dual	21	67%	33%
FLRA		18	33%	67%
Other		9	78%	22%



that state: "We are considering adding new features to our Web site. How useful would the following be to you?" See Table 53.

Of 411 respondents, 90% said that "FLRA forms" would be useful and 10% said that they would not be. There were little differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents. Of 408 respondents, 96% said that "full text of all FLRA decisions" would be useful and 4% said that they would not be. There were no differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents.

Of 414 respondents, 99% said that "search capability for FLRA decisions" would be useful and 1% said that they would not be. There were little differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents. Of 399 respondents, 85% said that "Interactive training materials" would be useful and 15% said that they would not be. There were little differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents.

Of 408 respondents, 89% said that "E-mail addresses to communicate with FLRA personnel about case related matters or obtain assistance" would be useful and 11% said that they would not be. There were little differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents. Of 398 respondents, 64% said that "establish electronic town meetings" would be useful and 36% said that they would not be. There were little differences between programs participated in nor between agency, union, and individual respondents.

Comments. G6. How can we improve our research services for you? (These are examples only; they do not represent a systematic representation of the comments. See Appendix B for the complete set of comments.) There were few criticisms of the research services as such. However, many of the suggestions related to an improved Web site where people can search cases using a search engine. Here are some of the suggestions: (1) A search engine on your web site would be outstanding. (2) Local training. (3) Publish decisions in regard to appeals to General Counsel. (4) We have been forbidden to automate the petition form. Typing it is ridiculous—please help! (5) Forms on the Web! Yes, PDF file format or Word, please. (6) 1-800 number. (7) Get absolutely current, go back as far as possible (i.e., on the Internet). (8) Add additional links to page, e.g., DOJ, other Federal servers, etc.